

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CTME-00 AGRE-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 EB-08
COME-00 SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8959

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 04395

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAGR, PINS, MX
SUBJECT: BORDER PROBLEMS, BLOCKADE OF AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS

REF: MEXICO 04168

1. ON FRIDAY, MARCH 10, AMBASSADOR CALLED GOVERNORS OF STATES OF CALIFORNIA, NEW MEXICO, ARIZONA AND TEXAS IN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN THEIR VIEWS ON CONFRONTATIONS AT BORDER CROSSING POINTS AND TO EXPLAIN EFFECT ON U. S.-MEXICAN RELATIONS. IN GOVERNOR BROWN'S ABSENCE, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT SILBERMAN INDICATED THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE NO DIFFICULTIES AT CALIFORNIA CROSSING POINTS. GOVERNOR APODACA ALSO NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CONFRONTATIONS ALONG THE MEXICO-NEW MEXICO FRONTIER.

2. GOVERNOR BABBIT SAID THAT ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF FARMERS HAD GATHERED AT NOGALES AND THAT DEMONSTRATIONS HAD BEEN HELD, THEY HAD BEEN ORDERLY AND NO TRUCKS HAD BEEN REFUSED ENTRY. DELAYS HAD OCCURRED IN CROSSING THE FRONTIER INTO THE U. S. BUT NO CONFIRMED CASES OF LOSSES OF PRODUCE HAD BEEN REPORTED. FARMERS HAVE COOPERATED WITH STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO ENSURE THAT DEMONSTRATIONS ADHERE TO PREVIOUSLY AGREED SCENARIOS AND THAT ACTUAL CONFRONTA-
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TIONS WILL NOT OCCUR.

3. GOVERNOR BRISCO'S AIDE, TRAVIS, NOTED THAT AFTER INITIAL DIFFICULTIES AT MCALLEN, DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN ORDERLY, WITH FARMERS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS COOPERATING WITH AUTHORITIES. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT NO INSTANCES OF SPOILAGE OF PRODUCE HAD BEEN CONFIRMED AND INDICATED THAT

SOME PRODUCE THAT WOULD NORMALLY HAVE BEEN ENTERED AT MCALLEN WAS BEING SHIPPED THROUGH OTHER ENTRY POINTS. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S INTEREST IN PRESS REPORTS THAT GOVERNOR BRISCOE HAD ASKED PRESIDENT CARTER TO BAR IMPORTS OF BEEF FROM MEXICO, TRAVIS NOTED THAT THE GOVERNOR HAD INDICATED HIS SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION BEFORE THE U. S. CONGRESS THAT WOULD REQUIRE LABELING OF IMPORTED BEEF THROUGH THE MARKETING CHAIN. LUCEY

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